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ransom

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¹**ran·som** *noun* \ˈran(t)-səm\

: money that is paid in order to free someone who has been captured or kidnapped

Full Definition of RANSOM

¹ : a consideration paid or demanded for the release of someone or something from captivity

² : the act of [ransoming](#)
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Examples of RANSOM

 The kidnappers demanded a *ransom* of one million dollars.

 The family is willing to pay *ransom* for his release.

 The *ransom* note explained the terms under which she would be released.

Origin of RANSOM

 Middle English *ransoun*, from Anglo-French *rançun*, from Latin *redemption-*, *redemptio* — more at [REDEMPTION](#)

First Known Use: 13th century

²**ransom** *transitive verb*

: to pay money in order to free (a person who has been captured or kidnapped)

Full Definition of RANSOM

¹ : to deliver especially from sin or its penalty

² : to free from captivity or punishment by paying a price

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— **ran·som·er** *noun*

Examples of RANSOM

He was held captive for a week before he was *ransomed* and returned to his family.

<the prince emptied the treasury to *ransom* his son from the kidnappers>

First Known Use of RANSOM

14th century

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Ran·som  *biographical name* \ˈran(t)-səm\

Definition of RANSOM

John Crowe 1888–1974 Am. educ. & poet

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